1	2	3
Sabarkantha	10583	17
Surat	5551	..
Surendranagar	1125	..
The Dangs	182	..
Vadodara	15191	1
Valsad	8372	2
TOTAL	112860	52

Development of indigenous LCA

*175. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when the work on the indigenous 'development of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) commenced and by what time it was anticipated to be completed and at what estimated cost;

(b) how much expenditure has been incurred so far on LCA project;

(c) what is the present stage of development of LCA and by when it is expected to be completed and at what cost; and

(d) what are the reasons for the delay and huge cost overruns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IB THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Feasibility Study of LCA commenced in 1983 and the first flight-test was planned in 1990. The preliminary estimated cost was ^s- *>60 crores at the 1982.83 price-level. Government approval for building two technology demonstrators of LCA under Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED)—Phase I, was accorded in April 1993 at a cost of Rs. 2188 crores at the October 1991 price-level,

(b) A sum of Rs. 717 crores has been spent so far.

(c) LCA is now in Phase-I of Full Scale Engineering Development phase Fabrication, assembly and integration of components and sub-systems has •commenced. The first flight is planned in June 1996,

(d) The main reasons for the delay we :—

(i) technology gaps arising from the absence of a major aircraft development programme in the period 1960-80.

(ii) inadequate infrastructure.

(iii) delays due to export clearance 'procedures in procurement of items from abroad.

(iv) revision of development stra_ tegy with emphasis on higher indigenous content due to the resource crunch

The reason for cost overruns are:

(i) general increase due to inflation and change in foreign exchange parity rates,

(ii) change in development strategy,

(iii) build up of infrastructure and test facilities.